A Harmony of Jesus' Parables

Lionel Hartley

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Lionel Hartley

Huxley Theatre Press, 1966

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Lionel Hartley
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The Parables of the Christ

(Listed here in Biblical Order)

(i) Light Under a Bowl

(Matthew 5:14-16) "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. 15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. 16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

(Mark 4:21-25) "And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? 22) For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. 23) If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. 24) And he said

unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. 25) For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath."

(Luke 8:16-18) "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. 17) For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. 18) Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."

(Luke 11:33-36) "No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. 34) The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but

when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. 35) Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. 36) If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."

(ii) New Cloth

(Matthew 9:16) "No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse."

(Mark 2:21) "No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse."

(Luke 5:36) "And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old."

(iii) New Wine, Old Wineskins

(Matthew 9:17) "Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved."

(Mark 2:22) "And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles."

(Luke 5:37-39) "And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. 38) But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. 39) No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better."

(iv) Fisherman's Net

(Matthew 13:47-50) "Again, the kingdom of

heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48) Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. 49) So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50) And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

(v) Mustard Seed

(Matthew 13:31-32) "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32) Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."

(Mark 4:30-32) "And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? 31) It is like a

grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: 32) But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it."

(Luke 13:18-19) "Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? 19) It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it."

(vi) Pearl of Great Price

(Matthew 13:45-46) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46) Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

(vii) Sower

(Matthew 13:1-23) "The same day went Jesus

A parable is a story which uses an example from the natural world to illustrate a spiritual truth.

The actual meaning of the word "parable" is "to lay beside to compare."

In parables, Jesus used natural examples that were easily understood to explain spiritual truths.

Basically, a parable is an earthly story with a Heavenly meaning.

out of the house, and sat by the sea side. 2) And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3) And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4) And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5) Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6) And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8) But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9) Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. 10) And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11) He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12) For whosoever

hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13) Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14) And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15) For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16) But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17) For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them. 18) Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19) When any one heareth the word of the kingdom,

and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20) But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21) Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22) He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23) But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

(Mark 4:3-20) "Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: 4) And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. 5) And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much

earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: 6) But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. 7) And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. 8) And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. 9) And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. 10) And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable. 11) And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: 12) That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them. 13) And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? 14) The sower soweth the word. 15) And these are they by the

way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. 16) And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17) And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. 18) And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19) And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. 20) And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred."

(Luke 8:4-15) "And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: 5) A sower

went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6) And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. 7) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8) And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. 9) And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? 10) And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. 11) Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12) Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13) They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of

temptation fall away. 14) And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 15) But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

(viii) Weeds

(Matthew 13:24-30) "Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25) But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. 26) But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27) So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28) He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29) But he

said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30) Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

(Matthew 13:36-43) "Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37) He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38) The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; 39) The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40) As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41) The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42) And shall cast

them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43) Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

(ix) Yeast

(Matthew 13:33) "Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."

(Luke 13:20-21) "And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? 21) It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."

(x) Lost Sheep

(Matthew 18:10-14) "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. 11) For the Son of man is come to save that which

If Jesus Christ is only a teacher, then all he can do is to tantalize us, to erect a standard we cannot attain to; but when we are born again of the Spirit of God, we know that he did not come only to teach us, he came to make us what he teaches we should be.

Oswald Chambers (1874-1917)

was lost. 12) How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? 13) And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. 14) Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

(Luke 15:3-7) "And he spake this parable unto them, saying, 4) What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? 5) And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6) And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. 7) I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over

ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance."

(xi) Unmerciful Servant

(Matthew 18:21-35) "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22) Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven. 23) Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24) And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25) But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26) The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27) Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28) But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which

owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29) And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30) And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31) So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32) Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33) Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34) And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35) So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses."

(xii) Workers in the Vineyard

(Matthew 20:1-16) "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. 2) And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3) And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, 4) And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. 5) Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. 6) And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? 7) They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive. 8) So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. 9) And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour,

they received every man a penny. 10) But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. 11) And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, 12) Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. 13) But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? 14) Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. 15) Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? 16) So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen."

(xiii) Two Sons

(Matthew 21:28-32) "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29) He answered and said, I will not:

but afterward he repented, and went. 30) And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. 31) Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. 32) For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him."

(xiv) Vineyard and the Tenants

(Matthew 21:33-46) "Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: 34) And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35) And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one,

and killed another, and stoned another. 36) Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. 37) But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. 38) But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39) And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. 40) When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41) They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. 42) Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43) Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44) And whosoever shall fall

on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. 45) And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. 46) But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet."

(Mark 12:1-12) "And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. 2) And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard. 3) And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty. 4) And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully handled. 5) And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some. 6) Having yet

therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son. 7) But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours. 8) And they took him, and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard. 9) What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others. 10) And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: 11) This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 12) And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way."

(Luke 20:9-19) "Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time. 10) And at the season he sent a servant to the

Jesus differs from all other teachers; they reach the ear, but he instructs the heart; they deal with the outward letter, but he imparts an inward taste for the truth.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

husbandmen, that they should give him of the fruit of the vineyard: but the husbandmen beat him, and sent him away empty. 11) And again he sent another servant: and they beat him also, and entreated him shamefully, and sent him away empty. 12) And again he sent a third: and they wounded him also, and cast him out. 13) Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence him when they see him. 14) But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours. 15) So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them? 16) He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard it, they said, God forbid. 17) And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? 18) Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on

whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. 19) And the chief priests and the scribes the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them."

(xv) Wedding Banquet

(Matthew 22:1-14) "And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, 2) The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, 3) And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. 4) Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. 5) But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: 6) And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. 7) But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and

destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8) Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. 9) Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. 10) So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. 11) And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: 12) And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13) Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 14) For many are called, but few are chosen."

(xvi) Fig Tree

(Matthew 24:32-35) "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is

nigh: 33) So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors. 34) Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled. 35) Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

(Mark 13:28-31) "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: 29) So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. 30) Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. 31) Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."

(Luke 21:29-33) "And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; 30) When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. 31) So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. 32) Verily I say unto you,

This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. 33) Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."

(xvii) The Talents

(Matthew 25:14-30) "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15) And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16) Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17) And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18) But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19) After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20) And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five

talents more. 21) His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22) He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23) His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 24) Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strowed: 25) And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26) His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strowed: 27) Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have

received mine own with usury. 28) Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29) For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. 30) And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

(xviii) Growing Seed

(Mark 4:26-29) "And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27) And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28) For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 29) But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

(xix) Watchfulness

(Mark 13:32-37) "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. 33) Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. 34) For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. 35) Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36) Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37) And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

(xx) The Two Debtors

(Luke 7:36-50) "And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. 37) And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, 38) And stood at his

feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. 39) Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. 40) And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. 41) There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. 42) And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? 43) Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged. 44) And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the

Jesus used the parable genre very well. A parable usually has a "contrast" technique, that is, something we do not expect.

It is good to try and imagine Jesus telling these wonderful stories to a live audience.

Like all good teachers he had to both educate and entertain.

Approximately one-third of the teachings personally conveyed by Jesus Christ as noted in the Gospels were in the form of parables.

hairs of her head. 45) Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46) My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47) Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. 48) And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven. 49) And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also? 50) And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

(xxi) Good Samaritan

(Luke 10:25-37) "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26) He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? 27) And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

28) And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. 29) But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? 30) And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. 31) And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. 32) And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. 33) But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, 34) And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35) And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. 36) Which

now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? 37) And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise."

(xxii) Faithful Steward

(Luke 12:42-48) "And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? 43) Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. 44) Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath. 45) But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; 46) The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47) And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will,

shall be beaten with many stripes. 48) But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more."

(xxiii) Foolish Rich Man

(Luke 12:16-21) "And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17) And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18) And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19) And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20) But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21) So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

(xxiv) Watchful Servants

(Luke 12:35-40) "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; 36) And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. 37) Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. 38) And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 39) And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. 40) Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not."

(xxv) Barren Fig Tree

(Luke 13:6-9) "He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. 7) Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8) And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9) And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

(xxvi) Cost of Being a Disciple

(Luke 14:25-33) "And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, 26) If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27) And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. 28) For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he

have sufficient to finish it? 29) Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, 30) Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. 31) Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? 32) Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. 33) So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

(xxvii) Great Banquet

(Luke 14:15-24) "And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. 16) Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17) And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things

are now ready. 18) And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19) And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20) And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. 21) So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. 22) And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. 23) And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. 24) For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."

(xxviii) Lost Coin

(Luke 15:8-10) "Either what woman having ten

pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? 9) And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. 10) Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

(xxix) Rich Man and Lazarus

(Luke 16:19-31) "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20) And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off,

Billy Graham (1918-) said, “Christ’s message was revolutionizing; his words simple, yet profound.

And his words provoked either happy acceptance or violent rejection.

Men were never the same after listening to him”.

and Lazarus in his bosom. 24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. 27) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29) Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31) And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

(xxx) Shrewd Manager

(Luke 16:1-13) "And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. 2) And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward. 3) Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. 4) I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses. 5) So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? 6) And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. 7) Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

8) And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light. 9) And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations. 10) He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. 11) If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12) And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? 13) No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

(xxxi) Master and Servant

(Luke 17:7-10) "But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto

him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? 8) And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? 9) Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. 10) So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."

(xxxii) Pharisee and the Tax Collector

(Luke 18:9-10) "And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10) Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican."

(xxxiii) Persistent Widow

(Luke 18:1-8) "And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray,

and not to faint; 2) Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: 3) And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. 4) And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; 5) Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. 6) And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. 7) And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8) I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

(xxxiv) Ten Pounds to Ten Servants

(Luke 19:11-27) "And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12) He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a

kingdom, and to return. 13) And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. 14) But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. 15) And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16) Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17) And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18) And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19) And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. 20) And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: 21) For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. 22) And he saith unto

him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: 23) Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? 24) And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. 25) (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) 26) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. 27) But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me."

Appendix: Old Testament Parables

(Sometimes called apologues, fables or allegories)

(i) Spoken by Ezekiel at Babylon concerning

the great eagles and the vine (Ezekiel 17:3-10) "And say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; A great eagle with great wings, longwinged, full of feathers, which had divers colours, came unto Lebanon, and took the highest branch of the cedar: 4) He cropped off the top of his young twigs, and carried it into a land of traffic; he set it in a city of merchants. 5) He took also of the seed of the land, and planted it in a fruitful field; he placed it by great waters, and set it as a willow tree. 6) And it grew, and became a spreading vine of low stature, whose branches turned toward him, and the roots thereof were under him: so it became a vine, and brought forth branches, and shot forth sprigs. 7) There was also another great eagle with great wings and many feathers: and, behold, this vine did bend her roots toward him, and shot forth her branches toward him, that he might water it by the furrows of her plantation. 8) It was planted in a good soil by great waters, that it might bring forth branches, and that it might bear fruit, that it might

be a goodly vine. 9) Say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Shall it prosper? shall he not pull up the roots thereof, and cut off the fruit thereof, that it wither? it shall wither in all the leaves of her spring, even without great power or many people to pluck it up by the roots thereof. 10) Yea, behold, being planted, shall it prosper? shall it not utterly wither, when the east wind toucheth it? it shall wither in the furrows where it grew."

(ii) Spoken by Ezekiel at Babylon concerning a lion's whelps (Ezekiel 19:2-9) "And say, What is thy mother? A lioness: she lay down among lions, she nourished her whelps among young lions. 3) And she brought up one of her whelps: it became a young lion, and it learned to catch the prey; it devoured men. 4) The nations also heard of him; he was taken in their pit, and they brought him with chains unto the land of Egypt. 5) Now when she saw that she had waited, and her hope was lost, then she took another of her whelps, and made him a young lion. 6) And he went up and down among the lions, he became

Jesus taught in many different places: anywhere where people could gather, where he could be seen and where his voice would carry.

He taught in synagogues *(Matthew 4.23)*, from hilltops *(Matthew 5.1, 15.29)*, on level places *(Luke 6.17)*, by the lakeside *(Matthew 13.1, Mark 4.1)*, from a boat *(Matthew 13.2, Mark 4.2)*, at wells *(John 4.5)* and in the Temple in Jerusalem *(Luke 19.47)*.

a young lion, and learned to catch the prey, and devoured men. 7) And he knew their desolate palaces, and he laid waste their cities; and the land was desolate, and the fulness thereof, by the noise of his roaring. 8) Then the nations set against him on every side from the provinces, and spread their net over him: he was taken in their pit. 9) And they put him in ward in chains, and brought him to the king of Babylon: they brought him into holds, that his voice should no more be heard upon the mountains of Israel."

(iii) Spoken by a woman of Tekoa at Jerusalem concerning two brothers striving (2 Samuel 14:1-22) "Now Joab the son of Zeruiah perceived that the king's heart was toward Absalom. 2) And Joab sent to Tekoah, and fetched thence a wise woman, and said unto her, I pray thee, feign thyself to be a mourner, and put on now mourning apparel, and anoint not thyself with oil, but be as a woman that had a long time mourned for the dead: 3) And come to the king, and speak on this manner unto him. So Joab put the words in

her mouth. 4) And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king. 5) And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, I am indeed a widow woman, and mine husband is dead. 6) And thy handmaid had two sons, and they two strove together in the field, and there was none to part them, but the one smote the other, and slew him. 7) And, behold, the whole family is risen against thine handmaid, and they said, Deliver him that smote his brother, that we may kill him, for the life of his brother whom he slew; and we will destroy the heir also: and so they shall quench my coal which is left, and shall not leave to my husband neither name nor remainder upon the earth. 8) And the king said unto the woman, Go to thine house, and I will give charge concerning thee. 9) And the woman of Tekoah said unto the king, My lord, O king, the iniquity be on me, and on my father's house: and the king and his throne be guiltless. 10) And the king said, Whosoever saith ought unto thee, bring him to

me, and he shall not touch thee any more. 11) Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth. 12) Then the woman said, Let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak one word unto my lord the king. And he said, Say on. 13) And the woman said, Wherefore then hast thou thought such a thing against the people of God? for the king doth speak this thing as one which is faulty, in that the king doth not fetch home again his banished. 14) For we must needs die, and are as water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him. 15) Now therefore that I am come to speak of this thing unto my lord the king, it is because the people have made me afraid: and thy handmaid said, I will now speak unto the king; it may be that the king will perform the request of his handmaid.

16) For the king will hear, to deliver his handmaid out of the hand of the man that would destroy me and my son together out of the inheritance of God. 17) Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD thy God will be with thee. 18) Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak. 19) And the king said, Is not the hand of Joab with thee in all this? And the woman answered and said, As thy soul liveth, my lord the king, none can turn to the right hand or to the left from ought that my lord the king hath spoken: for thy servant Joab, he bade me, and he put all these words in the mouth of thine handmaid: 20) To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth. 21) And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I

have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again. 22) And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, To day thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant."

(iv) Spoken by Jehoash, king of Israel at Jerusalem concerning the thistle and the cedar (2 Kings 14:9-14) "And Jehoash the king of Israel sent to Amaziah king of Judah, saying, The thistle that was in Lebanon sent to the cedar that was in Lebanon, saying, Give thy daughter to my son to wife: and there passed by a wild beast that was in Lebanon, and trode down the thistle. 10) Thou hast indeed smitten Edom, and thine heart hath lifted thee up: glory of this, and tarry at home: for why shouldest thou meddle to thy hurt, that thou shouldest fall, even thou, and Judah with thee? 11) But Amaziah would not hear. Therefore Jehoash king of Israel went up; and he and Amaziah king of Judah looked one

another in the face at Bethshemesh, which belongeth to Judah. 12) And Judah was put to the worse before Israel; and they fled every man to their tents. 13) And Jehoash king of Israel took Amaziah king of Judah, the son of Jehoash the son of Ahaziah, at Bethshemesh, and came to Jerusalem, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem from the gate of Ephraim unto the corner gate, four hundred cubits. 14) And he took all the gold and silver, and all the vessels that were found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and hostages, and returned to Samaria."

(v) Spoken by Samson at Timnath concerning sweetness coming forth from the strong (Judges 14:8-18) "And after a time he returned to take her, and he turned aside to see the carcase of the lion: and, behold, there was a swarm of bees and honey in the carcase of the lion. 9) And he took thereof in his hands, and went on eating, and came to his father and mother, and he gave them, and they did eat: but he told not them that

he had taken the honey out of the carcase of the lion. 10) So his father went down unto the woman: and Samson made there a feast; for so used the young men to do. 11) And it came to pass, when they saw him, that they brought thirty companions to be with him. 12) And Samson said unto them, I will now put forth a riddle unto you: if ye can certainly declare it me within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty sheets and thirty change of garments: 13) But if ye cannot declare it me, then shall ye give me thirty sheets and thirty change of garments. And they said unto him, Put forth thy riddle, that we may hear it. 14) And he said unto them, Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness. And they could not in three days expound the riddle. 15) And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? is it not so? 16) And Samson's

wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people, and hast not told it me. And he said unto her, Behold, I have not told it my father nor my mother, and shall I tell it thee? 17) And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people. 18) And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What is sweeter than honey? and what is stronger than a lion? And he said unto them, If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle."

(vi) Spoken by one of the sons of the prophets near Samaria concerning the escaped prisoner (1 Kings 20:35-43) "And a certain man of the sons of the prophets said unto his neighbour in the word of the LORD, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man refused to smite him. 36) Then said he unto him, Because thou hast not obeyed

the voice of the LORD, behold, as soon as thou art departed from me, a lion shall slay thee. And as soon as he was departed from him, a lion found him, and slew him. 37) Then he found another man, and said, Smite me, I pray thee. And the man smote him, so that in smiting he wounded him. 38) So the prophet departed, and waited for the king by the way, and disguised himself with ashes upon his face. 39) And as the king passed by, he cried unto the king: and he said, Thy servant went out into the midst of the battle; and, behold, a man turned aside, and brought a man unto me, and said, Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life, or else thou shalt pay a talent of silver. 40) And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone. And the king of Israel said unto him, So shall thy judgment be; thyself hast decided it. 41) And he hasted, and took the ashes away from his face; and the king of Israel discerned him that he was of the prophets. 42) And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Because thou hast let go out of thy hand a man

Why Four Gospels?

The Gospels present many facets of the person of Jesus (for example baby, man, carpenter, preacher, storyteller, teacher, healer, miracle worker, King, servant, substitute, the Son of God, etc.).

By having the blessing of four Gospels, we do not have four separate pictures of Christ, but a well-rounded four-sided picture of Christ.

whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore thy life shall go for his life, and thy people for his people. 43) And the king of Israel went to his house heavy and displeased, and came to Samaria."

(vii) Spoken by Balaam at Mount Pisgah concerning the Moabites and Israelites (Numbers 23:24 - 24:25) "Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain. 25) And Balak said unto Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all. 26) But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do? 27) And Balak said unto Balaam, Come, I pray thee, I will bring thee unto another place; peradventure it will please God that thou mayest curse me them from thence. 28) And Balak brought Balaam unto the top of Peor, that looketh toward Jeshimon. 29) And Balaam said unto Balak, Build me here seven altars, and

prepare me here seven bullocks and seven rams. 30) And Balak did as Balaam had said, and offered a bullock and a ram on every altar. 24:1) And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at other times, to seek for enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness. 2) And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him. 3) And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: 4) He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: 5) How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel! 6) As the valleys are they spread forth, as gardens by the river's side, as the trees of lign aloes which the LORD hath planted, and as cedar trees beside the waters. 7) He shall pour the water out of his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters, and his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. 8) God brought him

forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows. 9) He couched, he lay down as a lion, and as a great lion: who shall stir him up? Blessed is he that blesseth thee, and cursed is he that curseth thee. 10) And Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam, and he smote his hands together: and Balak said unto Balaam, I called thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast altogether blessed them these three times. 11) Therefore now flee thou to thy place: I thought to promote thee unto great honour; but, lo, the LORD hath kept thee back from honour. 12) And Balaam said unto Balak, Spake I not also to thy messengers which thou sentest unto me, saying, 13) If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the LORD, to do either good or bad of mine own mind; but what the LORD saith, that will I speak? 14) And now, behold, I go unto my people: come therefore, and I will advertise thee what this people shall

do to thy people in the latter days. 15) And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open hath said: 16) He hath said, which heard the words of God, and knew the knowledge of the most High, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, but having his eyes open: 17) I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. 18) And Edom shall be a possession, Seir also shall be a possession for his enemies; and Israel shall do valiantly. 19) Out of Jacob shall come he that shall have dominion, and shall destroy him that remaineth of the city. 20) And when he looked on Amalek, he took up his parable, and said, Amalek was the first of the nations; but his latter end shall be that he perish for ever. 21) And he looked on the Kenites, and took up his parable, and said, Strong is thy dwellingplace, and thou puttest thy nest in a rock. 22) Nevertheless the Kenite shall

be wasted, until Asshur shall carry thee away captive. 23) And he took up his parable, and said, Alas, who shall live when God doeth this! 24) And ships shall come from the coast of Chittim, and shall afflict Asshur, and shall afflict Eber, and he also shall perish for ever. 25) And Balaam rose up, and went and returned to his place: and Balak also went his way."

(viii) Spoken by Nathan to David at Jerusalem concerning the poor man's ewe lamb (2 Samuel 12:1-9) "And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. 2) The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: 3) But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. 4) And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own

flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. 5) And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: 6) And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. 7) And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; 8) And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. 9) Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon."

(ix) Spoken by Ezekiel at Babylon concerning the boiling pot (Ezekiel 24:3-5) "And utter a parable unto the rebellious house, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Set on a pot, set it on, and also pour water into it: 4) Gather the pieces thereof into it, even every good piece, the thigh, and the shoulder; fill it with the choice bones. 5) Take the choice of the flock, and burn also the bones under it, and make it boil well, and let them seethe the bones of it therein."

(x) Spoken by Isaiah at Jerusalem concerning the vineyard yielding wild grapes (Isaiah 5:1-6) "Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: 2) And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes. 3) And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you,

betwixt me and my vineyard. 4) What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? 5) And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: 6) And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it."

(xi) Spoken by Jotham at Mount Gerizim concerning trees making a king (Judges 9:7-15) "And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto them, Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you. 8) The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us. 9) But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my

fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? 10) And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us. 11) But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees? 12) Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us. 13) And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees? 14) Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us. 15) And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon."

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